

# THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



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COUNCILMEMBER  
THIRD DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Construction Starts on Metro Career Center

### Community Groundbreaking Celebration for Career Center and Metro Villas To Be Held Saturday, February 22nd

SAN DIEGO—The on-going revitalization of City Heights took a giant leap forward in January as construction on the Metro Career Center got underway at 39th Street and University Avenue. The new four-story, 81,500 sq. ft. facility has been specifically designed for the San Diego Workforce Partnership's Career Center program. The centralized location will bring much-needed employment and training services, education and support services to residents of City Heights and the entire Mid-City region.

Third District Councilmember Toni Atkins and San Diego Workforce Partnership President and CEO Larry Fitch visited the construction site on January 24th for a ceremonial groundbreaking to mark the start of construction. An official community groundbreaking celebration for the Career Center and the adjacent Metro Villas—a 120-unit affordable housing complex--will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, at 10am, at the north end of the construction site on Polk Street between 39th and 40th streets.

"This new career center will bring a wide variety of opportunities to the residents of City Heights and Mid-City. It is an important part of our regional economic development strategy to develop and train a workforce for local industry," said Councilmember Atkins. "The unique thing about this career center is that the building that will be constructed here has been designed specifically for job training, counseling, referrals and education that will enhance an individual's ability to secure a decent job."

The Metro Career Center is being developed for the San Diego Workforce Partnership by the San Diego Revitalization Corporation, a non-profit public benefit corporation. The site will benefit local residents by providing a variety of job training, referral and education services. There will be also be on-site childcare. The Workforce Partnership hopes to encourage local job seekers, businesses and youth to take advantage of the education, training and life-long learning programs offered through the Career Center Network and partners like the Employment Development Department and the San Diego Community College District.

The Metro Villas will offer one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom affordable units for rent, and will include two tot lots and 485 parking spaces in a four-story structure adjacent to the site which will be

shared by both the Career Center and the Villas. Construction on the Villas will begin in February.

The Career Center is scheduled to open in March 2004. The estimated completion date of Metro Villas is September 2004.

"This is yet another creative mixed-use project in City Heights that will include daycare, tot-lots, parking and a career center all in one location," said Councilmember Atkins. "I invite the community to come out and join us on Saturday, February 22nd, at 10am for the official community groundbreaking for both the Metro Career Center and the Metro Villas. This is the beginning of another great chapter in the ongoing revitalization of City Heights."

For more information on the February 22nd community groundbreaking celebration, please call George Biagi in Councilmember Toni Atkins' office at 619/236-6527.

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